

## CANADIAN FIREARMS SAFETY COURSE (cont'd)

You do not have to pass the Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course to acquire a restricted or prohibited firearm if you passed the combined course before February 1999.

You can challenge both tests without taking the courses, unless a court has prohibited you from possessing firearms in the past. In that case, after your prohibition order has expired, you must take the course AND pass the test before applying for a PAL.

## REGISTRATION

You must be at least 18 and have a firearms licence or a valid FAC to register or re-register firearms. (If you are under 18, your firearms must be registered to a licensed adult. You may apply to have the registration transferred to your name when you obtain a PAL.)

All your **non-restricted** firearms (ordinary rifles and shotguns) must be registered by **January 1, 2003.**

All **newly acquired** firearms must be registered to you before you can take possession of them.

Any restricted or prohibited firearms registered in the former system must be re-registered in the Canadian Firearms Registry by January 1, 2003, in order to update the information. There is no fee for this.

You will receive a separate registration certificate for each firearm that you register. A registration

## TRANSFERRING FIREARMS

Before you transfer (give, sell or trade) a firearm to someone else, or someone else transfers a firearm to you, you must get approval from a provincial or territorial Chief Firearms Officer. As well, the firearm must be registered to the new owner.

You can apply by phone in most cases. Call 1-800-731-4000 and select the "transfer" option from the menu of services. You can also apply by filling out form JUS 681 for restricted or prohibited firearms, or form JUS 682 for non-restricted firearms.

certificate is valid for as long as you own the firearm, unless you modify the firearm to change its class.

If you lend a registered firearm to another person, you must also lend the registration certificate.

If you sell or give a firearm to someone else, or if another person sells or gives a firearm to you, the registration must be transferred to the new owner. In both cases, the person must have a licence to possess that class of firearm.

## FEES

In most cases, the fees are as follows:

- A PAL costs \$60 to possess any class of firearms and to acquire non-restricted firearms only, or \$80 to acquire restricted or prohibited firearms.
- There is a bulk registration fee of \$18 for all firearms that **you owned on December 1, 1998**, and that you register at the same time.
- The **registration fee** for all **newly acquired firearms** is normally \$25 per firearm. However, this fee is waived for firearms acquired between June 10, 2000 and June 30, 2001.

**Exception:** If you hunt to sustain yourself and your family, you do not have to pay licence or registration fees for long guns. Call your provincial or territorial Chief Firearms Officer at 1-800-731-4000 or a local firearms officer to find out if you meet the requirements for "sustenance hunters" in your area.

For general information, call 1-800-731-4000  
or visit our Web site at [www.cfc.gc.ca](http://www.cfc.gc.ca)

Revised: 31/03/01

Government  
Publications

## How the Firearms Act Applies to ME if....

CAI  
J/50  
-2004

**own  
a Firearm**

3 1761 11709863 2



Canada

## How the Firearms Act Applies to ME if....

# i own a Firearm

If you own or use firearms, here are some things you should know about the *Firearms Act*.

- The information in this pamphlet is for adults (18 and older).
- There is a separate fact sheet for minors (under 18) who use firearms. You can find sources of additional information at the end of this pamphlet.

## FIREARMS LICENCES

As of January 1, 2001, you need a **valid firearms licence** in order to own or use a firearm, or to obtain a firearm or ammunition by any means, including as a gift.

**Exception:** You do not need a licence to use borrowed firearms if you are under the direct and immediate supervision of a licensed adult.

Licences for Canadian adults include:

### Possession-Only Licence (POL)

- A POL was only available to firearm owners who applied before January 1, 2001. It is **renewable** every five years.

- It **lets you** own and use firearms, borrow firearms in the same class as your own, and obtain ammunition.
- It **does not let you** obtain more firearms by any means, including as a gift or inheritance. If you want more firearms, you must upgrade to a Possession and Acquisition Licence (see below) once you meet the extra eligibility requirements.

### Possession and Acquisition Licence (PAL)

- This is the only licence now available.
- It gives you the same privileges as a POL, plus it lets you acquire firearms.

- Before applying, you must pass the test for the Canadian Firearms Safety Course in most cases. (See below for exceptions).
- If you want to acquire handguns and other restricted or prohibited firearms (other than ones you may already own) you must also pass the test for the Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course.
- It is renewable every five years.

### Firearms Acquisition Certificate (FAC)

- A valid FAC issued under the former law is considered a PAL.

- No more FACs are being issued. If you own firearms, you must apply for a PAL about 4 months before your FAC expires.

A POL or PAL will specify what class or classes of firearms you may have. The three classes are:

- **Non-restricted:** (ordinary rifles and shotguns)
- **Restricted:** (mainly handguns)
- **Prohibited:** (automatic and converted automatic firearms, handguns with a barrel length of 105 mm or less, 25 or 32 calibre handguns, and other firearms prohibited by *Criminal Code* regulations).

## CANADIAN FIREARMS SAFETY COURSE

When it started in 1993, this course reflected the firearms laws and safe-handling requirements for all classes of firearms. As of February 1999, there are now two separate courses. The Canadian Firearms Safety Course now focuses only on non-restricted

firearms; the Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course focuses on restricted firearms.

To get a PAL, you must pass the test for the first course **UNLESS:**

1. You have already passed the test; or
2. Before January 1, 1995, you passed a firearms safety course that was "designated as equivalent" by the Attorney General of Manitoba or Québec; or
3. You have owned firearms since 1979, and a Chief Firearms Officer has certified that your knowledge of firearms laws and safe-handling practices meets the standards required by the licensing regulations.